

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 40-80 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Claim 71 has been canceled, and claim 42 has been amended for clarity. Claims 43 and 49 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 40-45, 47, 48, 54, 56, 72, 73, 75, 77, and 78 have been amended to overcome the objection based on the term "soft-buffer" and the acronyms in claims 54 and 56. Claim 72 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. All claim elements are deemed to be in non-means-plus-function format.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

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